

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing a multiple queue Ethernet adapter comprising:
 - receiving a frame or packet in the adapter;
 - determining whether the frame or packet is for one or more of a plurality of partitions that share the adapter; and
 - if the frame or packet is for one or more of the plurality of partitions that share the adapter:
 - storing the frame or packet in an adapter cache memory;
 - determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent; and
 - transferring the frame or packet from the adapter cache memory directly to a receive queue of each of the one or more partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent-
wherein determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent further comprises:
 - accessing a value stored in a register, the value indicating a type of address to use for determining one or more of the plurality partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent;
 - accessing a table stored in the adapter; and
 - determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent based on the value stored in the register and data stored in the table.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the frame or packet is for one or more of the plurality of partitions that share the adapter, generating an interrupt to notify each of the one or more partitions to which the frame or packet is transferred of the frame or packet.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent includes:

accessing a table stored in the adapter; and

determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent based on data stored in the table.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent based on data stored in the table includes determining one or more of the plurality of partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent based on at least one of a MAC address, VLAN ID/MAC address pair and an IP address stored in the table.

5-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing a multiple queue Ethernet adapter comprising:

employing a receive queue and a transmit queue for each of a plurality of partitions included in a computer system; and

at least one of transferring a frame or packet from the transmit queue of one of the plurality of partitions directly to the adapter cache memory, and transferring a frame or packet from the adapter directly to the receive queue of one of the plurality of partitions:

wherein transferring a frame or packet from the transmit queue of one of the plurality of partitions to the adapter cache memory includes:

accessing a table stored in the adapter; and

transferring a frame or packet from the transmit queue of one of the plurality of partitions to the adapter cache memory based on data stored in the table; and

wherein transferring a frame or packet from the adapter to the receive queue of one of the plurality of partitions includes:

accessing the table stored in the adapter; and

transferring a frame or packet from the adapter to the receive queue of one of the plurality of partitions based on data stored in the table.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a plurality of partitions of a computer system to share a multiple queue Ethernet adapter comprising:

creating a new partition in the computer system; and

allowing the new partition to directly share the adapter with one or more other partitions of the computer system:

wherein allowing the new partition to share the adapter with one or more other partitions of the computer system includes:

selecting the new partition to share the adapter;

sending the address of the selected partition to a firmware of the computer system;

employing the firmware to notify a hosting partition that the new partition is allowed to share the adapter; and

updating a table stored in the adapter, the table storing information about the queues corresponding to each partition that shares the adapter.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 12 further comprising notifying the firmware of an interrupt corresponding to the new partition.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 12 further comprising updating a table stored in the hosting partition.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein updating the table stored in the adapter includes updating the table stored in the adapter with the table stored in the hosting partition.

17-34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

determining whether the frame or packet is for one or more of a plurality of partitions that share the adapter includes determining the frame or packet is a broadcast frame or packet; and

transferring the frame or packet from the adapter cache memory to a receive queue of each of the one or more partitions to which the frame or packet is to be sent includes transferring the broadcast frame or packet from the adapter cache memory to a receive queue of all of the plurality of partitions that share the adapter.

36. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein generating an interrupt to notify each of the one or more partitions to which the frame or packet is transferred of the frame or packet includes generating a Message Signaling Interrupt (MSI) to notify each of the one or more partitions to which the frame or packet is transferred of the frame or packet.

37-44. (Canceled)